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T H E
Practical Farmer :
O R, T H E
Hertfordshire Husbandman :

Containing many New
IMPROVEMENTS in HUSBANDRY.

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| I. Of MELIORATING the different SOILS, and all other Branches of Business relating to a FARM.
II. Of the NATURE of the several Sorts of WHEAT, and the SOIL proper for each.
III. Of the great Improvement of BARLEY, by BRINEING the SEED, after an entire new Method, and without Expence.
IV. Of increasing Crops of PEAS and BEANS by HORSE-HOUGHING.
V. Of TREFOYLE, CLOVER, LUCERNE, and other Foreign Grasses.
VI. A new Method to IMPROVE LAND at a small Expence, with BURNT CLAY.
VII. Of the Management of COWS, SHEEP, SUGKLING of | CALVES, LAMBS, &c. with Means to prevent, and Remedies to cure ROTTENNESS in Sheep.
VIII. How to keep PIGEONS and TAME RABBITS to Advantage.
IX. A new Method of PLANTING and IMPROVING FRUIT-TREES in <i>Ploughed Fields</i> .
X. Of the various MANURES and DUNGS proper for every SOIL.
XI. Of the Usefulness, Culture, Method of Raising, Drying, and the Virtues of HOPS.
XII. Of Foreign WHEATS.
XIII. General OBSERVATIONS on the Year 1734.
XIV. A COMPARISON of different METHODS of FARMING in several Countries. |
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By *WILLIAM ELLIS*,
Of *Little Gaddesden*, in *Hertfordshire*.

P A R T II.

L O N D O N :

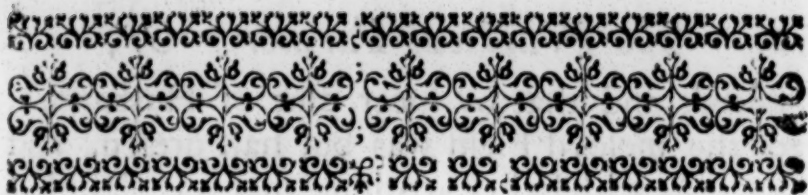
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T H E

Practical Farmer, &c.



THE first Particular I wrote on in a former Part of this Work, is the Melioration of Soils by mixtures of Dungs, Hand-manures, Artificial-grasses, &c. and certainly it ought to be the chiefest and ultimate End of our greatest Cares and best Endeavours in Farming so to do, because as the Earth is the Foundation or Production of all Crops, and encrease of Grain, Fruit, Wood, Cattle, &c. if this is neglected, all things that are sown, planted, or grows in the same will complain, and Nature itself will be a Witness of the ill Husbandry of its Occupier. This was more than ordinary evident to me, when I saw an Acre of Ground of my Neighbour's, produce only four Bushels of Wheat, and another that return'd forty Bushels, and I am sure the former was the better Land, because it was a deep Hazle-loam, and the latter a Hurlucky-chalk. The first was inclos'd and rented at 14 s. *per* Acre, the other open-field Land at about half the Money, a great difference

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indeed,

2 *The Praetical Farmer : Or,*

indeed, and that by meer dint of Husbandry for the inclos'd Field was but half dress'd, and that only with light Cart-dung, that was plough'd in and then sown with Wheat on a Fallow of sowe Tilth, after a Crop of Peas, when the other had regular Ploughings all the Summer, brought into a fine sweet Tilth, was well folded, and had about fifteen Loads of short Horse-dung ploughed into and thoroughly mixed with the Earth ; by all which it may plainly appear, how one Farmer may be Ruined, while another gets an Estate ; for there is the very same Rent, Taxes, Tythes (if paid for) Ploughing, Reaping, &c. of a bad manag'd Acre of Ground as there is for one ever so well husbanded : So that it is egregious Folly to undertake Farming without a Person has both Money and Skill, and there be a due Application of both. Another lively Instance of this appear'd in one of my Acquaintance's Conduct that rented about 100 *l.* a Year, who having only but 100 *l.* besides his Stock, laid most of it out in meliorating his Land with Chalk and other Dressings, and tho' it is near twenty Years ago, such a Beginning proved a Foundation of most of his After-success, and the Man can now call himself a Man of Substance ; when the slothful negligent Farmer (who had, in my Opinion, as good an Opportunity as the other) is at this time reduced to great Indigence.

The shifting or changing of Crops yearly is an experienc'd Improvement towards meliorating of our Earths ; for as several Species or Roots have

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have their Suction from the Ground in different manners, they each time cause an alteration in the Nature of the Land, and thereby makes it a more proper Receptacle for the next Change of Grain or Grass: But this Usage can't be carry'd on in Clays or Loams, so long as in Gravels, Chalks, or Sands, because a Clay or Loam by this means will in time become heavy Clung and Som, and then it's in vain to sow any more till it is got sweet again; and if they are sowed constantly too long, such Earth will be overtaken with the wild Oat. But Gravels, Chalks, and Sands will hold sowing ten Years together, provided they be got to a Tilth, dress'd well, and the Seed chang'd every Year: Yet even these by length of Time and constant Sowings, will be apt to breed the wild Oat or other Trumpery, as it happened to be my Lot to prove in *Feb. 1733*, when, at *Leighton-Buzzard* in *Bedfordshire*, I bought some Barly that came off a sandy Soil at *Solebury*, where they sow their Ground every Year, but the Barly was stained with the wild Oat; however I could get no better there, the Change being right from a Sand to a Loam; and indeed such alterations of Seed has now very much supplanted the Use of Chalk and Lime that would very potently open the Pores of the Earth, and sweeten it to such a Degree, as, with the help of the Plough, would meliorate it for twenty Years together: Instead of which, a Crop of well-hoed Turnips, a full Crop of Beans, or a hoed Crop of Peas, &c. will answer in a great measure.

Of WHEAT.

THERE are many Sorts of it both in *England* and foreign Parts ; but with us in the Western Part of *Hertfordshire*, there are but two Sorts in general Use, *viz.* The Lamas and the Pirks. The First, as I have said before, is the most noblest Wheat of all others, for its large Body, fine Flower, and the great Quantity it yields ; but then it is not fit to be sowed on any Ground besides rich Clays and Loams, because in such it will return its full Substance in Grain ; but in Gravels, Sands, or poor Grounds the Pirks excel, and in either, there may be 35 or 40 Bushels obtain'd in an Acre some Years, if it is doubly dress'd with Cart-Dung, Fold, Soot, Horn-shavings, Rags, &c. for Gravels, tho' they are naturally poor Soils, yet are they of such a kerning Nature, that I have known them bear eight Quarters of Barley on an Acre, and so in proportion of Wheat, and then a Farmer may depend on paying his Rent and saving of Mony ; but he that spares Dressing, will be sure to fail if he expects such Crops.

Besides, when a full Crop of Wheat, or any other Grain has grown in the Ground, such Land will be made hollow and freed of Weeds, which renders it in a true Capacity to bring forward succeeding Crops to great Profit : This answers the old Maxim, *That Riches begets Riches.* For many has found this Truth to answer in
their

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their next Crop of Peas or Beans, that loves dearly to grow in hollow rich Earths.

The Nature of that fine Wheat, by some called White Lamas, by others White Pirks, makes the Whitest of Flower, and is best ground with the red Lamas, because the latter is generally full tough and the other as brittle. The white Pirk is a hardy Wheat, and makes a great Return by its full Ear, and is much esteem'd in foreign Parts. It is near alike to the *Sicilian* Wheat that one of the Royal Society was so good to make me a Present of near a Peck, that I have now growing : And if any Person think fit to be furnished with this true genuine Seed, that I had the Year before last from about *Aylesbury*, they may have it sent up to *London*, or elsewhere, at a reasonable Rate, on sending me a Letter (Post paid) directed to me at *Little Gaddeſden* near *Hempstead* in *Hertfordshire* ; that is 27 Miles distant from *London*.

B A R L Y.

This Grain, in all probability, is likely to become more plenty and cheaper than ever, by reason of the great Encrease that the famous Receipt mentioned in the first Part, will be the Cause of, if used according to my Directions. It will certainly be found to be the best augmenter of Barly-Crops, of any of this kind ever invented, and a happy Discovery it will be found in time, not only for the great Use it affords of making

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making Brew'd and Distill'd Liquors; but the extraordinary Opportunity it gives the Farmer of feeding his Horses and fattening his Hogs, &c. when first broken by the Mill, and therefore I would advise the sowing of Barly as often as there is room for it, and then the Ground which (when sow'd with this Grain) commonly lies in broad Lands, will be ready on one Ploughing to bear a good Crop of Beans, Peas, &c. and after the Peas or Beans (if they are a full Crop) a Crop of Wheat may succeed before the Ground is fallowed; and for this reason many in the Chilterne Country gives their Land a Fallow after three Crops, whereas formerly they us'd to do it after two.

It is poor farming when a Farmer accounts three or four Quarters of Barly on an Acre, a good Crop, after his great Charge and Trouble of Ploughings and Dressings, as I have known it often happen in our Chiltern Grounds; but how insipidly obstinate are those Men that thus goes on, when they may as well have seven Quarters on an Acre, and that for not a half-penny Charge as I know of, more than the old Way, because the Bushel of Barley sowed in the Seed, balances the Charge of the Nitre, as I have already wrote of. However, I am in hopes the Eyes of their Understanding will be open'd in time, and if Reason won't convince them, the Examples of their more discerning Neighbours will, and provoke them to the frequent Use of this my invaluable Receipt.

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Oats is a Grain very apt to shed if they are too ripe before they are mowed, even to the Loss of half the Crop. Or sometimes the same Disaster is occasion'd by great Rains that falls after they are mowed, and by length of time loosens them in the Hull, so that great Quantities are scatter'd out before they can be got in. It is therefore excellent Husbandry to feed the Field first with Hogs, and then with a Number of Turkeys, Hens, or Chickens: Its true, Cocks and Hens are not Fowls that will bear driving, if the Field is at a distance; but Geese or Turkeys will; and then there will be a great Improvement made which otherwise would be lost, as I see it often done by many remiss Farmers. Again: If Oats are mowed too soon before they are ripe, and got in before they have had Rain, they will be very troublesome to the Thrasher, and cost more Money and Time to get out; they will also be shrivel'd up and small-bodied, that will much hinder their Sale, therefore this Grain should be first examin'd by good Judgments before it is mowed and got in. It's a common Notion with some, that Oats will take no harm, if the Water runs out of the Cart as they are bringing home, but this is wrong; for such Oats generally will become mouldy and hoary in the Mow, and so stink as to spoil the Sale of them: If they said, they would take less Damage by wets than other Grain, I am of their

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their Sentiments ; and if a Shower or two falls on them after Mowing, it often does them a great deal of Good, because it plumps their Kernels and makes them Thrash much easier and better, and for this reason many let them lie on purpose in the Field for the Enjoyment of this Benefit.

It is a Grain that is obtain'd with the least Trouble and Charge, and where Ground is proper for them, they will pay as well as any. They are likewise necessary to Sow as a Change to the Ground, that always best prospers under Variety of Seeds ; and then several Crops may be had before a Fallow is allow'd it, especially if the Land is a Gravel, Chalk, or Sand.

FRENCH WHEAT.

This great Improver of Ground is such a Friend to the Farmer, that if its Value was more known, I am sure it would be more made use of than it is : What a Benefit must it be to dress an Acre of Ground for half a Crown, as well as Soot or most other Manures would for twenty or five and twenty Shillings. Indeed it is not all Ground will admit of this Management, but in Sands, Gravels, &c. this Grain will grow and flourish, if ploughed in at *August*, and Wheat be sowed on the same when it is rotted, there will undoubtedly be a good Crop : And of Rye, if served in that manner.

PEAS.

P E A S *and* B E A N S.

These are also great Improvers of Land, as well as a great Friend to the Farmer in particular, and are now become such a useful Grain, that the like was never known; hardly a Farmer, as well the Rich as the Poor, but what Fatt Hogs enough to keep them and their Families good part of the Year from the Butcher's Shop: The Excellency of this nutritious Flesh wants no Encomiums to illustrate its Value and Use; but yet I can't help observing the Humour of the *Kentish* Farmers, who were the first as I know of, that brought up the general Custom of pickling Pork, which among them are so common, that I remember a Ploughman had a Warrant for his Master for feeding him with this Pork three Months together. It has now almost supplanted the Use of Bacon in that Country, and with a great deal of Reason, because there is not that wast in this, as in the Rhind and Rust of the other.

Peas and Beans are the best of Food for fattening of Swine, and makes the firmest Flesh of all other Grain. But a right Choice of Peas is of some Moment to the Farmer, who to act warily, should have both the forward and latter Sorts, for then he stands the surer Chance of good Crops, and therefore he ought to begin with the Horn Grey-Pea that will bear sowing in *January*, and is a most hardy Sort,

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and of a good Size. The next he should sow is the large Maple-Pea about the middle of *March*, for sooner will endanger their Growth: The next is the white *Essex Reading*, and the blue Sort that should be sowed in *April* on Broad-lands or in Drills, but the latter is the surest Way, and by these last, he is liable to enjoy a Mess of green Peas in the *Summer* Season, and also a fine Pudding of them, or Mess of Soup all the Winter.

Artificial GRASSES.

These Grasses are evidently known to furnish many Farms with good Hay all the Year, that before could not cut a single Load, as having none but Plough'd Ground belonging to the same; nor is this the only Benefit belonging to them: They likewise hollow the Earth, kill the Weeds, and enrich the Land with a great Quantity of Roots, that when the Land is ploughed up, are left in the same, especially the Clover, St. Fayne, and Treyfoyle Sorts. Many of the Farmers differ in their Opinion, as to their Management: Some says, one Years feeding or cutting of Clover or Treyfoyle is best, because by that the Ground has received sufficient Rest and Alteration, and that Wheat or Barly ought to follow the same, as paying more than a second Years Grass. Others say it is better to lay two Years, because the Ground gets so much richer by having a longer

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ger Rest, and the Roots of the Grass are the more bulky, and consequently do the Ground more Good : But then such Grass should be dress'd the second Year with Coal-ashes, or Soot, it being most natural for its Improvement, and by this means the second Year will be as good as the first, and make the Ground the Richer for the succeeding Crop of Wheat.

Try your Clover-feed first by sowing a little of it in a Garden, and if it comes up well there, it will do so in the Field; for there is a great deal of bad Seed mix'd with some good, and then it will disappoint the Hopes of the Owner.

Rye Grass is a good Feed while green, for Cattle, and so is the Hay, if mowed in due time, and got in well; but in the latter Part of the Summer, it grows dry, stubbed, and harsh, and good for little: It's poor Husbandry to sow rich Land with this Grass, because it only affords a Benefit the first Part of the Summer; whereas Clover holds it even to *All-bollontide*, and longer sometimes, therefore poor gravelly Grounds, &c. are most fit for Rye-Grass, and yet this Sort of Land may be put to a far better Use, as I shall hereafter make appear.

St. Fayne and Lucern are truly worthy of Encouragement for their bulky Crops, when all other Grasses are burnt up, but then they must be adapted to a right Soil, or else your Labour will be lost: They both run much alike

with their Carrotty-roots, and that so deep, that the Sun has the least Power to dry them of all others, tho' they are sowed in Chalks and Sands, which are the most proper Soils of all others for their Growth. They both will do well in dry Gravels and Loams, but not in Clays or wet Loams. However, any of the aforementioned Grasses are admirably beyond that ill Piece of Husbandry which too many of the negligent Sort, to my knowledge, have and do use; and that is, the letting of the wild Honey-suckle stand for a Crop the succeeding Summer after a Crop of Corn, in which it grew among; for it is only a Weed occasioned by Want of due and true Ploughings, that would certainly eradicate and destroy this incumbrance, that often cripples whole Crops of Corn, especially in wet Summers when it grows most rampant; and this they suffer to grow to feed their Cattle instead of a Crop of Clover or other Grass, to the great Prejudice of their Land, that must consequently abound with this Weed the more, as opportunity by this means is given it to enlarge and encrease its Roots.

Of PLOUGHINGS, SOILS, and DRESSINGS.

Ploughing of Ground is of such absolute necessity in all Lands, where Corn and Artificial Grasses are sown, that whoever is wanting in this Work to get the Earth into a fine hollow
sweet

sweet Condition when it is sowed, may depend on it, that they stand a sorry Chance of having a plentiful Crop of either; nor is it often Ploughing the Ground that will do, if it is not plough'd deep where the Staple will allow it: Therefore the Two-Horse Farmers seldom cultivate the Ground as it should be, because their Strength renders them incapable of doing this Work to the Purpose, besides the many other Inconveniencies that attend the same. As in dry Seasons in Gravels especially, they are oblig'd to lose their Opportunities of Ploughing, because their Strength is not sufficient to do this Work to the Purpose, nor can their Shair-Point penetrate deep enough to eradicate, nor their Coulter cut through the many potent Weeds that many Grounds are infested with, which is often the Occasion of the Loss of most part of a Crop; for if only a Camock-root will Sett six Horses sometimes, what Chance has a Pair with such a strong Weed? 'Tis therefore a Farmer's Interest to keep a Horse extraordinary, if his Conveniency will let him, to help him through these and many other Difficulties; that is, if he has but two to keep a Third, or three to keep Four, &c. as I know several do.

When Land is thus ploughed well and the Weeds kill'd, then is there greater Room for Manures and Dressings, which in weedy Grounds helps to multiply and enlarge their Product, and often is the Cause that such Weeds spoils
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the Crop ; and for this Reason some judicious Farmers won't put their Dung on the former Part of the Summer, but will stay till just before the last Ploughing is made, to sow Wheat, that the Dung may not nourish the Weeds, which it will surely do, when ploughed in with them in foul Ground, as is too commonly seen, especially in wet Loams and Clays ; and therefore it is, that these Sorts can't be ploughed too often, when Sands, Chalks, and Gravels can't be too seldom. It was the Case of my next Neighbour this last Year 1733, in a Ten-acre Field, to plough about nine Acres of the Upper or Hilly-part of it several times to get it into a fine Tilth for sowing of Wheat, on a true Loamy Soil ; but the tenth Acre being a sharp Gravel, lying on a Level at the Bottom of the Rest, he gave it but one Ploughing, and that only before he sowed it with Wheat and folded on the same : This proved right Management, for if he had ploughed the gravelly Part oftner, the Rains would have wash'd the Mould from the Stones and made it poorer : Besides, one Ploughing would bring such Ground into a Tilth as soon as two or three would a Clay or Loam.

B E A S T S.

Cows, are Beasts that very much vary not only in their Make and Shape, but also in their Bags, which obliges the Buyer in particular,

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cular, to have a Regard to them: Some have their Leathers thick and fleshy; others thin and lainge. The thick leather'd One will often seem big and give but little Milk, and that very hard to be got, when a Thinner One shall give much more, and be easily milk'd; and therefore, when a Person is Master of a right Cow, it concerns him to keep her on, for I may say I have found this Sort hard to come by. I have had a little Cow with a good Bag give much more than a larger One that had a great deal of Leather and little Milk: And indeed, in our Chiltern Country, a large Cow seldom pays like a lesser One; because if they do Milk well, yet must their Living be according to their Body, else they'll quickly lose a daily Quantity of their Milk, which is soon lost, but hardly (if ever) possible to get again that Season.

S H E E P.

About *Christmas* last, 1733, in the adjacent Parts of the Country near *Tame* in *Oxfordshire*, there were many Sheep died rotten in their low Meadows, by Means of a white Froth on the Ground, occasioned by the Fall of great Rains that at this time happened, and also by Means of the Dirt or Sullidge that wash'd from the highest Parts on the Lower, that tainted the Grass and did the Damage. It's true, the Rot was not very much this Winter, in comparison

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parifon of fome that has been, and therefore the eafier cured : But had my invaluable Receipt of the Regulus of Antimony been duly applied, and my other Items been obferved, undoubtedly there had not been fo many perifhed as was. Nor would there be fuch a Number of Misfortunes happen to Horfes, Hogs, and other Cattle, as perpetually do, if the right Ufe of the feveral Preparations of Antimony were more known and praftifed.

R A B B I T S

Are Creatures that not only fupply the Markets, but alfo ferves a Family for Variety, and at a Time of Neceffity, which makes them more and more be bred in Hutches. But in my Opinion, not one in ten does this to the Purpofe, and that for want of Management. The ignorant Man I have known give Wheat-Pollard (which is the beft of Food for them) with fresh Grains, and fometimes neglects the Mixture with ftale Ones, but there is not that occafion for the firft as the laft ; for when Grains (which is their common Food) are ftale, then the Pollard takes off the griping part of them, which new ones are free from. The right Sort of Rabbits are alfo a principal Matter, for without them a great deal of Charge will be loft, for it is the fame with thefe as with Horfes,

or

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or Cows, the best I can light of are those that are all Grey, and a brightish Circle about their Eyes. This Pollard will, best of any thing, prevent the young Ones being Pot-bellied.

P I G E O N S

Also are of the same Service, and pay as well for their Food and Care that is bestow'd on them, and are indeed less troublesome than the Rabbits, because they can provide for themselves better. There are several Persons, to my Knowledge, that out of an avaricious Temper, necessitates the Pigeon to seek his Food abroad; but what such Persons get in the Hundred they lose in the Country; for these Creatures, as they are great Breeders so are they Feeders; and where they are debar'd of their Fill, they are oblig'd to roam at distances, and so are expos'd to the Loss of their Lives by Guns and Hawks, and often tempted to stray away with others of their Specie, or at least to breed seldomer than if they were kept from that fatigue and trouble: it also is the occasion of some Loss of their Dung, that those most enjoy that mostly feeds. A Turner by me keeps forty Pair of Pigeons, twelve breeding Does in Hutches, a Number of Fowls in proportion, and only rents a House and Orchard of five Pounds a Year, which gives him an opportunity to go to *Hempstead-Market* almost

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most every Week, for the Sale of some of their Young, and with Hens-eggs, during the Season. But his Skill and Diligence in this Affair is (as in many others) half the Profit; and he has often proved, as well as my self, the great Benefit of feeding well, for that then the Cock and Hen will bring up a Pair at a Time, when they will but One, if stinted of their Meat.

H E D G I N G.

This most serviceable Invention is the Farmer's Happiness in more than one respect; it not only furnishes Fuel, but contributes greatly to his repose, by being an assurance Night and Day against Cattles damaging himself and Neighbours; and therefore ought to be propagated with all Expedition, Care, and Diligence, where it may be done. It also gives him an opportunity to display his despotick Power (where he is not obliged to the contrary) by sowing what he thinks fit, and when, which open Fields generally debars him from; and it may be depended on, that Inclosing will be more beneficial than ever, for several Reasons that I could here assign. The best Hedge, as I have already said, is the White Thorn and Sallow for Wood and Fence, where they will grow: Holly and Furze, indeed, do potently resist both Men and Horses, and are proper in sandy or barren Grounds, where the

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two Firſt will not proſper. The Horn-beach makes a pleaſant good Fence, and is a profitable Wood for Firing, and many other things, but then it's tedious in growth. The Aſh is uſeful, but it has its Faults. The Hazel is a ſlow grower. The common Beech is beneficial on Chalks; but is late before it is fit to cut in a Hedge. The Maple will thrive well on ſome ſort of dry Grounds, but is a ſoft Wood and bad Fence. In a Word, there are nothing beyond the Sallow and White Thorn in Gravels, Loams and Clays, &c. but in marſhy Grounds the Alder exceeds.

P L A N T I N G.

I ſhall be brief in this Article, becauſe I have already enlarged on it, and ſhall only ſay, that now about me, it is become a general Practice to plant the Fruit-Trees on the very Surface of all Rounds, be they Chalks, Gravels, Loams, or Clays, be they either ploughed or ſowed, becauſe the beſt Earth is always at top; and by covering their Roots after they are planted in good Mould, with Dung or Horſe-litter, they will be ſecur'd againſt the Drought, and grow as faſt again, as if ſet deep in the Earth; eſpecially if Virgin Mould is firſt put in a Fofs for their Roots to run into in *October* or *February*, for then let the ſucceeding Summer be dry, they will grow and flouriſh without watering (as I have already

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obſerved)

observed) which would be an excessive Charge and Trouble if Trees were planted at some distance from the House, or on Hills: By this Method large Plantations might be propagated to great Advantage; when, on the contrary, all the Charge of Fruit and other transplanted Trees would be lost, which indeed in many thousand Instances have proved a Discouragement, not only to those already planted, but to the Propagation of others that would have been planted, had the First answered Expectation, and I dare say this is the main Impediment why the County of *Hertford*, and several others near *London*, is not at this Day better furnished; which, if they were, would prevent, in a great measure, the Effect of the old Proverb, — *Far fetch'd and Dear bought* — as is true at this Day; however, I hope in time the Scales will be taken off the Eyes of the Landlord's Mind, that lives in the adjacent Countrys to *Middlesex*, who have a better Opportunity by far, than some of the North-West Countries, whose Benefit is partly advanced by our Mistakes; because what hinders many Improvements, is a barbarous Notion that governs too many, who are adverse to new Discoveries, or envying others that have rival'd their Wishes or Intentions to propagate the same; such, I say, are too much guilty of that sordid savage Quality that is charg'd on the Dog under the Manger, that would neither eat Hay himself, nor let the Horse

Horse eat it: Others that are ignorant of these most necessary Improvements in Farming, are ready to flight an Essay on the first Sight, because it is not within the Compass of their narrow Understandings. This I have had a regretted Experience of by too many of my Countrymen, but however, I am resolved that shall be no Barrier to me, because I am persuaded these, and the many other new Things that I am going to publish in Agriculture, &c. will be followed and practised in time by those very Cavillists for the sake of their Interest only, for I don't expect dint of Reason will ever get so much the Ascendent with these Sort of People, as to reduce their Obstinacy to Practice upon any other Footing.

Again: In the Undertakings and Performances there are many Mistakes committed to the entire Discouragement of the Owner; as the Planting of an Apple where a Pear should be; a Cherry instead of an Apple; a Wall-nut in the Room of a Codling, Plumb, Pear, or Cherry, &c. and then the Issue will be Charge and Expectation without Profit: Or else by an erroneous Method of setting a Tree in the Ground at first, and this is so great a Calamity that I dare be presumptuous to say, That not one Orchard in six, throughout the Nation, is planted right. How necessary then are these Books that may convict Persons of such fatal Mistakes, and shews them at the same time a Way of Planting, that will be
truly

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truly successful, and give them Fruit in a little time, as well as many Years afterwards.

For this purpose happy are they that possess good Earth, for we find that this will give more than that which is mended with great Cost and Charges: Therefore it is very necessary to enquire into the Quality of your Ground, whether it be heavy or light, dry or moist, soft or strong, what is proper to mend the Ground with, and how to chuse Trees fit to plant it withal: for he acts the best Artist that accommodates his Tree to its proper Soil.

Moist Ground produces the largest Trees, and Fruit and Trees will last many Years longer in stiff moist Grounds than in the more dry and loose Earths, but then the Fruit will not be so well tasted in the former as in the latter. He that will but observe a moist and dry Summer, and the difference of Soils, may soon discern the same by the Taste.

According to your Ground, you must chuse several ways of Dunging.

C O W - D U N G

Is a fattish, but poor Excrement, yet is good in all hard dry Grounds, to make them soft and light.

S H E E P S-

S H E E P S - D U N G

Is of a hard, unctuous, saline and hot Nature, and assists all Grounds more than any other: It is a universal Dressing to any manner of Earth whatsoever, and of two Years Duration in the common Fields; and therefore, where any Surface of Ground can be conveniently come at with the Fold, it will do vast Service to the Roots of any Tree, both in Summer and Winter; it is this that makes Field-planting so beneficial, because when Trees are planted in Rows on the Grass-baulks or Hedge-greens of plowed Fields, they consequently receive great Assistance from these and other Cattle's dunging and staling on their Roots, as I have before more largely wrote on: and where a Person has an Inclination to plant a Piece of Ground with Fruit-trees, who has no Sheep of his own, this may be supplied very well if he lives near Commons that are grazed by Sheep, for then he may gather all the *Summer* long Quantities of this excellent Dung, with which he may make an Infusion and water the Roots of his Trees with the same to an extraordinary Profit. The Stale of this Creature is also certainly of a very hot saline Nature, by reason it generally lives with less Water than any other Beast whatsoever of its bigness, and therefore of great Efficacy to the Roots of Trees, and indeed

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deed most other Vegetables. Their Wool likewise administers a Nutriment to the Earth whereon they frequently lie, by the Warmth and Grease thereof.

H O R S E - D U N G

Indeed is better for a Flower-garden than Trees, in some respects: But there is a Way of making it very serviceable for Trees also, as I have often experienc'd, and that is, let it be well rotted, and then put it on the Surface of the Earth at any time of the Year, about four Foot round the Body of the Tree, (but never put any close to the Roots, for then it will breed a Canker in the Body of the Tree) and then the Rains will have an opportunity to wash its Salts in upon the Tree-Roots, and cause it to grow a prodigious pace, and the more because it keeps off the Sun's too great Power from the Roots, which in hot dry Summers, is apt to destroy rather than nourish, and therefore it should always be kept upon the Roots throughout the Year, because in Winter it prevents the Frost's Mischiefs, as well as in Summer the Sun's.

H O G - D U N G

Is good for almost any Ground, as being of a more moist fat Nature than the dry hot Horse-dung: It is a quick promoter of Vegetation,

ration, and an excellent Dressing for almost all Sorts of Ground, but is more or less Good as the Food is that produces it ; for Horse-Beans that are generally given to Fat this Beast with, being of a very hot Nature, and abounding with plenty of the Nitre-quality, is certainly very fertile and very proper to be laid on the Surface of the Ground upon the Roots of Trees, but best of all when it is carried directly out of the Hog-stye or Yard, before its Salts are washed away by the Rains. This Dung, if mix'd well with Mould, and let lye for some time to rot and incorporate together, will be a very good Composition to plant a Tree in ; or laid, after the Tree is thoroughly planted, on the Top of its Roots, about six Inches thick, and three Foot from the Tree's Body all around it. So likewise if it is laid alone as it comes out of the Stye, or mixed with Earth, all about the Roots of an old planted Tree, and kept on the same all the Year, it will do Wonders in the Production of Wood and Fruit, as I have truly experienc'd it, by several Trials: But I don't advise the laying of such crude Dung next to the naked Roots of either old or young Trees, for if this is done, it is a Chance if it does not destroy the Tree, by its great Heat, and the close adhesion that this greasy Dung joins the Tree-roots. However, if discreetly us'd, it is certainly One of the best Dungs, and therefore the Multiplication of it ought to be
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deavour'd by all who keep Hogs, which may be done, if Straw, Roots, Garbidge, Weeds, &c. are timely supply'd to them. In short this Dung, by most Farmers, is esteem'd the most fertilizing Manure of all the Quadrupeds, either for the Assistance of Trees or Grain ; and for this Reason I would recommend the Use of this excellent Dung in the following Manner, *viz.*

When a new Hedge is planted with Quicksetts of Thorn, Sallow, Holly, &c. they are with us, laid in the Bank somewhat horizontally with a small ascent with their Head-part, that the Water may the better descend to their Roots, by which Means the Top or Surface of the Bank is bare, and left roundish ; now here is room for a Quantity of such Hog-dung to be laid on the Ridge of the Bank all the Way it extends itself, which by the succeeding Rains will gradually wash down upon the Roots of the new-planted Setts, or the Roots of any Fruit-trees that may be planted therein, as I have done this Winter 1733, and there administer such a Fertility as to cause such Setts and Trees to grow as fast again as they would otherwise do, if they had no such application : By this Means also the Sun's Heat is kept off from drying and scorching the young Roots both of the Setts and Trees, which often is destructive to such Undertakings : So also are the Frosts hindered from
kil-

killing them, that sometimes are fatal to them. Now it may be objected by some, That this is a great Charge and Trouble to bestow their Dung this way, when they have a hundred other Calls for it in their Fields. To this I answer, That there is not an absolute Necessity for this Trouble and Charge above one Year, or once well-doing of it, because when the Roots have taken the Ground they will be strong enough of themselves, to resist the Extremities of Weather, nor will the Charge be much, by reason one Cart-load of short Hogs-dung will be sufficient to cover five or six Poles of such a Bank.

The Roots of old Hedges generally extend themselves several Yards from their principal Stakes, as will the Roots of Fruit-Trees, if planted at some distance in such a Hedge according to the common Rule, which is forty Foot asunder, and these are all govern'd in their growth according to the Goodness or Badness of the Soil; therefore I would advise all Persons that are Masters of such Hedges and Tree-roots, to give them a Dressing of this or other Dung on the Surface of their Extention, and then they may depend on it, they will have a profitable and quick Return of Wood and Fruit. This is such a Piece of Husbandry, that in my Opinion there is hardly any thing exceeds it in Farming, because your Fence will be the sooner in Service and

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out of the Cattle's Reach. But to be more particular, I will tell you the Practice of one of the best Farmers in our Country, and that is, presently after he has sown his Wheat or Barly, he takes a Number of

COW-HOOFS,

These he sticks in the Ground about a Foot asunder, with their broad Ends upright, by first making a hole with a piece of Iron or Wood, and that commonly from the very Hedge, if the ploughed Ground reaches to it, and thus it may be planted an Acre or two or more together. Now by planting these Hoofs upright in the Ground, they are capable of receiving and holding the Rain-water that falls into them, which in time will corrupt, putrify, run-over, and water all the Ground between the Hoofs, so that the Roots of the Trees and Hedges, as well as the Corn, will have the Benefit of it, and such a one as will cause all of them to grow excessive fast, according to the Account I have given of this Dressing in my late Book, entituled, *The Chiltern and Vale Farmer*, page 338, and is what all Farmers ought to observe, that can come by such a durable and most valuable Manure.

MUD

M U D.

Mud taken out of Ditches or Bogs, will mend all Sorts of light Grounds, and bring it into a proper Consistence to plant Trees in; but such a Mixture ought to have a sufficient Time allowed it to be digested in a Heap by the Sun and Air, which will the sooner be done if turned now and then. In low, moist, or wet Grounds, apply a Composition of one Load of humane Ordure grown stale, whereof the Strength is gone, seven Bushels of Lime, one Load of Clay, and two of Cow-dung: Mix these together very well, and let them lie on a Heap for a quarter of a Year to rot, then turn it, and so let it lie till you have occasion to use it, and when that is, dig a Hole according to the Bigness of the Tree you will plant, and fill it up with the same Ground, so that the Roots are all envelop'd in this Mixture, then cover all with common or rather with Virgin Mould, and you need not doubt but your Tree will be fruitful, and never be overgrown with Moss, which is generally the Misfortune of all low wettish Grounds, and provided the Rules already laid down in this Book be duly observed.

U R I N E S

U R I N E S

Are all in general of a fiery Quality, and affords a great deal of that Principle which all Farmers and Planters ought to endeavour after, as the most fertile Assister for all Trees, Shrubs, and Grain, and here it is in a great measure to be met with and enjoy'd, provided a due Care is used with it, for else it will do more harm than good, it being so efficacious on all Corn, Grass, and Tree-Roots, that one single Dressing or Sprinkling of old Piss in the Spring-time, is sufficient to bring forward their Growth for that Summer, as I have several times experienc'd; and though it may burn or scorch the Grass or Corn-blades for a little time after it is used, yet will they recover and come to their former verdure in a Week or two's time.

Of the H O P.

This most useful Vegetable has perhaps been the most abus'd of any other, both in its Use and Character, by the ignorant Person, who not knowing its fine Vertues and true Management, has mist enjoying a most pure Ingredient; for it is certain the Hop (like many other Vegetables) has its good and bad Properties: Good, I say, when its spirituous flowery healthy Part is obtain'd free of the earthy

earthy unwholsome phlegmatick Part, which may easily be done in all manner of Brewings, if Skill and Care be employed in the same: But as that Matter is somewhat foreign to my present Purpose, I shall now wave that Particular and observe, That it's my real Opinion, and that for very good Reasons that I could assign, the Hop will be in greater Reputation than ever, when its extraordinary Vertues are more known, and consequently a third Part or more consumed than at present they are: And therefore I would advise all Persons that are in a Capacity, to make Plantations as fast as they can, and the sooner they do it, the sooner will they come by the Profit that will arise by a new Method of consuming them in Malt Liquors that will be speedily published.

It is a most hardy Plant, agreeing with Clays, Looms, Gravels, &c. but in Sands and Chalks, &c. they will not answer so well. They will prosper almost in all Climes where the Soil is fit for them, and when they have got footing in the Ground, there is hardly any destroying them, as I have seen experienc'd by a Person that would have clear'd a few Yards of them, where they grew in a wrong Part of the Garden, but he could not, without digging farther into the Ground than he was willing. However, the Hop, like most other Vegetables, requires a Soil that must actually be well dress'd with rotten Dung, rotten Turf,
bottom

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bottom of Ponds, Wood-earth, Virgin-mould, Lime-ashes, Sea-sand, or Marle, &c. for without this Husbandry they will degenerate; therefore if the Undertaking is great, the Purse should be so likewise. They will not enjoy a full Crop of them till the second or third Year, and then there may be a Thousand Pounds Weight on an Acre, which is reckoned but a middling Crop: An Acre will cost about Twenty Pounds Planting, Poleing, and Looking-after, and then if a Blight does not happen, it may return Thirty or Forty Pounds in one Year clear Profit. Sallow, Poplar, Alder, Willow, Chestnut and Ash, are proper Poles, that are worth about Twelve Shillings *per* Hundred with us, if they are three or four Inches Diameter and twelve Foot long, and may be raised in ten Years time for Use, the first Time, but afterwards they may be cut in less time, according to the Directions in my Book intituled, *The Chiltern or Vale Farmer*.

A dry Soil and open situation to the South-East and South-West Points agree best with Hops, if they are defended with Trees planted on the East, North, and West Sides, and likewise planted in a good Tilth and rich Mould, by Lines throughout the Ground you plant, with Knots or Rags tied at eight Foot distance, to direct where a Stick must be put in for the making of the Hills either in Square or Quincunx Forms. Then in *February, March, or April* the Hop setts of seven or eight Inches

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ches long may be planted, and their Roots carefully bedded, leaving three or four Joints out. Or Cuttings or Shoots from the Roots will grow at this time of Year, and so they will if cut when the Hop is gathered, and directly put into good Earth to be re-planted in *March* following, and become a good Sett. To plant the Sett, raise a Hill of about fourteen Inches over, and with a Dibber, plant five or six Setts in each Hill, and cover them two or three Inches with good Mould that may encourage them to make Sap-roots speedily. In the Summer keep all Weeds between clear with the Hoe, and about *June* twist them together and let them lye that they mayn't bear the first Year, to make good which time, Garden-beans may be Sett between the Hills, and about *November* plough and dig the Inter spaces, and Dung an Acre with forty Loads, cutting the Hop-Vines down to the Earth, and cover with fat Mould that the Frosts hurts them not. About the first of *March*, the second Year, open the Hills and cut away all new Suckers; then Pole them with twelve-foot Poles. The third Year they are in full Perfection and will last about twenty Years, and now they must have Poles of twenty-foot long, three to a Hill, but don't Pole till the Shoots are ten Inches high, which generally is about the middle of *April*, making first a hole with an Iron Crow to put the Poles in, that must be cut three-square at their Ends. When

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the Vines are three Foot and all are not taken to the Poles, guide the rest to them. Dry times are often impediments to the Hop, which to supply, some are at a great Expence and trouble to Water each Hill, but I will tell you how to avoid it. When you make your Hill, put in, about the middle of it, either Fern or Horse-litter, and cover it with Mould in the Shape of a Bafon, and never water the whole Summer; this will do by retaining the Wetts, and so save Watering fix Hundred and Eighty Hills that an Acre contain at Eight-foot distance. If planted Square, at six Foot distance, then twelve Hundred on an Acre is the usual distance. The Quincunx Order, at six-Foot distance, is fourteen Hundred Hills. If the green Lice or Fly annoys the Hop, use the Dutch Squirt, and it may Chance to give you Hops when your Neighbours has none. About the begining of *September* your Hops will be ripe, known by their brown Colour, then cut the Vines three Foot from the Ground and pull up the Poles, which carry to the Bin and pick them; twist the remaining Vines together; three Acres will imploy five Bins or Frames. Pull the Hops a little before they are ripe, that they mayn't lose their Seed, and put them on the Kilns as soon as possible, and dry on the hair Cloath; when the Hops are brittle they are dry'd enough, which commonly is in two or three Hours; Charcoal or Coak is generally used to dry with;

with; they must not be turned on the Kilns while they sweat, but cheek the fore first and then turn, and when dryed enough, let them lye to Sweat in heaps two or three Days and then they will be fit for Bagging, for Hops will break to Powder if Bagg'd directly from the Kilns. They are to be Bagg'd by a Man's treading them in. The Poles may be Stack'd all Winter in an upright or leaning heap about three Hundred together. Ash Poles will last Seven Years, Chesnut longer; but if Yew Poles could be had, they would out-last all others. If setts of Hops are to be brought from some distance, Soap their Roots and it will preserve them, and save the Trouble and Charge of packing them in Sand and Mould. There is an Instrument call'd a Dog, that if applied right, will take up the Poles easily.

At this time I have some Hops growing in a red Clay where they have been these twenty Years, and yet bears very well; which proves that this Vegetable affects a stiff Soil better then a light one, for in this they will flourish and continue longer than in light and loose Earths, because these emits their Salts free and quick to the Vegetables that grow in it, and therefore such Earths sooner lose their Fertility; when the stiff Sorts emits them more slowly, and supplys a greater Moisture to the Roots than the dry and loose Sorts can. Besides, in all stiff Soils, Dungs and Manures will remain longer than in the more

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dry and loose Ones, because the latter are more voracious and hungry, and are sooner exhausted than stiff Earths; and therefore it is that all Dressings should be proportion'd both in quantity and quality to their particular Soils; as for Example, Horn-shavings, Coney-clippings and long Dungs are proper for Sands, Chalks and Gravels: But for stiff Clays, Looms, or Sut-ashes, Sea-sand and short Horse-dung is most proper. The Tops of Hops are excellent eating, if gathered about *Lady-Day* or the beginning of *April*, and boiled in Bunches tied up like Asparagus; and, I am of Opinion, are much wholsomer. The Criterion to know how much is good of their Tops, is discovered by their breaking short off when they are bent at their lowest Brittle-part that is commonly about a Foot from the top-bud, and so far they are useful and no farther, and these may be gathered where their Shoots are too numerous, without prejudicing the Hop, and will rather Strengthen than Weaken the remaining Shoots.

The general expeditious Way of Drying Tops is by the Kiln, which extract their humidity in a little time, but then such Violence is not so natural as the Heat of the Sun, that is the best of all other Ways, where Conveniency will allow its being enjoy'd in Drying of Hops; for the spiritous Parts of
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this Plant is so nice, that it cannot endure any violent Heat without prejudice to its fine Vertues that are of a friendly opening Quality, when its aromattick subtil Spirits are thus mostly kept in, and then they naturally powerfully purge by Urine, and are a special Remedy against the Stone, although by many of the Ignorant, they are unjustly charged with breeding it. Indeed when this noble Vegetable, the Hop, is abused, and after their good Vertues are drawn off or evaporated by the Force of Fire, as boiling, or the like, which is done in a trice, for no Herbs that have been dried as they ought, will endure the Fire or boiling without manifest prejudice to their best Vertues, which is the Reason that the *Plymouth* People eat their Herbs chopt small and put into their Broath after it is in the Porringer: Then, I say, the contrary ill Qualities may be expected to bring on and produce Gravel, Stone, and other evil Effects. But to have the true Benefit of the Hop, it is a gentle Infusion that will naturally, and without violence to Nature, extract or draw forth all that is desired in Hops, or any dried or prepared Herbs. The further Particulars of this Management in Brewing, see in the *London and Country Brewer* first published by an Experienc'd Hand the twenty-second of May last 1734. a Book far exceeding all others for its ample Accounts of the several Methods of brewing Malt Liquors,
Etc.

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Ec. and is truly necessary for all Persons whatsoever concern'd, both in publick and private Brewings, and also all Drinkers of Malt Liquors. Sold by *Weaver Bickerton* at *Lord Bacon's Head*, without *Temple-Bar*; the Second Part on the same Subject, is intended to be Published in a short time.

About *October* last 1733, I sowed, some foreign Wheat, that was given me by a Member of the Royal Society, on a hungry gravelly Soil in a Land by it self, exclusive of any mixture of the *English* Wheat that grows in the same Field, and find it to carry a different-colour'd Green, compared to the *English* Sort, grew up with strong Stalks that produced naked Ears about the ninth of *May*, which were then three Foot high and better, but these Ears to my surprize come out Bearded like Barly or Dugdale Wheat, which is a good Property, because they defend the Ear from Blights, which entitles many to Crops of the Dugdale Sort when others miss, and is such a resister of Cold, that it is now much sown in *Lancashire* and other Northern Parts, and would be more propagated in the Southern Parts were it not for its Courseness. Again: I observe, that in the same Field I sowed *English* Wheat a Month almost before I sowed this foreign Sort, and yet the latter shot out sooner than the former by a Month — All which difference gives me great Hopes I shall be Master of what

has

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has been so long wanted, *viz.* A Wheat that will endure late Sowing and yet be sooner Ripe than any of our *English* Wheats, and then we shall be as happy in this Grain as we are in the rath ripe or forward Barly, and obtain the great Conveniency of having a Wheat-Crop after our Turnips instead of a Barly Crop, which though now practised by some, yet is it with great Uncertain-tys and Hazards, and particularly the Wheats, being liable to Blights occasioned by Honey-dews, &c. that happen in *June* and *July* and are often fatal to the late ripe Wheats, by reason their Ears being then greenish, these Dews by their glutinous Natures have the more Power to lock up and close their Parts, so that they can't enlarge their Bodys, and then the Produce will be only a lean thin Corn, often times of about half the Substance of the old Lamas Sort. — Also by the same Person in *May* 1734, I was presented with another Sort of foreign Wheat, which being too late to sow this Summer, I intend to try it the next Season — I had also a Present made me by the same Person of a foreign Barly that is partly like Wheat and partly Barly, of a larger Body something than our *English* Sort, and is said to produce almost double the Quantity of Drink, when Malted, than any Barly that grows in *England*. This foreign Barly I put into my Ground in a Garden and covered it with Nets, but as there
were

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were but half a Handful sown, the Birds were so voracious after it, that they got under the Nets and destroyed most of it, so that I had hardly thirty Corns left, which I have since put into the Ground for another Tryal; my Friend also had the Misfortune to lose his intirely, by the Mistake of one of his Weeders, who while he went into the Country for some time, cut up the Barly among the Weeds of the Garden. It was first brought out of *Greece* over-land to *Hamberough*, from whence it was brought to *England*. I have also a new Sort of foreign Grass sowed this Summer for a tryal, which if it answers my Expectation, shall venture to sow it in common, and publish its Effects: And indeed it is a great pitty that Tryals are not more made to naturalize Exoticks in our Fields by those whose Abilities are capable of doing it, that our Ground may be more Employed in Variety of Corn, Grasses, Fruits, and Trees, &c. However, as to these already mentioned, I hope to give a good Account of them when I have seen their product, as also of many more curious and serviceable Matters as I and others have truly Experienced, when I can print my Monthly Books that I have for these six or seven Years past been endeavouring after, by trying Experiments, and making Collections and Observations for the Good of my Country, and which I am certain will be of vast service to it, for particular and many

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many Reasons that I could assign had I room enough.

The *Indian* Wheat that is in general Use in *Africa*, and many other Parts of the World, and is called Cankee by the Blacks at *Cape-Coast*; might, in my humble Opinion, be still further attempted than it has been; for if there could be found out something extraordinary to forward its Growth, so as to bring it to maturity before the short Days are too far advanced, I am in hopes it may be effected, and as a well-wisher of such Success, I intend to make a tryal the next opportunity of a Season, and if I miss, it shall only be in a small attempt at first, and not in a random extraordinary Charge, which then would justly impeach my Discretion; for though I have as great a Passion for the Vegetable as most, yet I think it does not become me, nor any other Person, to venture too much at first, least the Difference of Soils, Management, Mistakes, or other Incidents, cause an unforeseen Miscarriage.

General Observations on the Summer 1734.

This Summer was chiefly a Wettish-one, that caused the Vale-Crops in general to be so big as to be laid flat, and that before the Wheat and Barley were full Kernalled, which made these Grains to be lean and half-bodied, by hindring a free ascent of the Sap to the

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Ear. The Horse-Beans also grew so high as caused a greater Drip of Rain than usual to fall on their Under-Blossoms, that could not dry soon enough to prevent the Damage the Wets occasion'd by reason of their great Cover, and so became a very indifferent Crop; their Oats, Pease and Tills had the same fate: Nor did we in the Chiltern altogether escape a Share in this Misfortune, for there were many of our Hill-Country Farmers had their Wheat, Barly, and Pease laid in some parts of their Fields, but not like the Vales: I had Barly fell down in *May*, by the Violence of Rains and the Strength of Winds in two of my Fields, but not so much as to hinder its being a vast Crop, and allowed by our Farmers to be the best in the Parish. Our Grass was very great, and we had a very good time to Inn it about the first of *July*, which is commonly the time our Hay is got off our Cold, Clayey, Hilly-ground at *Gaddeſden*; but our Black-Cherrys received what we call a Blight, by the Colds and Wets, that caused a great fall of them about a fortnight before *Midsummer*. Our Woods and Hedges grew extreamly fast this Summer. The Fruits of Apples and Pears were plenty. But the greatest Quantity of Beech-Mast hung on the Trees that ever was known in the Memory of the Oldest Men. About this time Wheat rise two Shillings in five Bushels, by the Apprehensions of a short Crop, and the great Call there

was

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was abroad for it. The Kernels seem'd to suffer by an indifferent Blooming-time, that its two Enemys were the Cause of; The Wets and Flys: In short, the bad Husbandman had the best of it this Summer in many Places, for the poor Grounds was loaded with plentiful Crops by the great feed the Rains gave them: However, as these unforeseen Incidents of Weather seldom happens, it was no fault on the industrious Farmer's side; and if the Chiltern Farmer had the best of it this Year, the Vale Men have the advantage of greater Crops four to one at least other times. And what was very particular, their Sheep escaped a general Rot, which in wet Springs or Summers they commonly are overtaken with, but this time there were but few that died, and that was by the red Water, and Cholick or Gripes, that the flashy Nature of the wet Grasses occasion'd, tho' both them and we were upon the Edge of suffering, had not the Rains in a great measure ceas'd, which it did for some Days at times, and 'twas these Intervals of fine Weather, in my Opinion, that sav'd us from the Rot. However, on the Loss of two of my Sheep the beginning of *June*, I gave the rest two Spoonfuls a-piece of my Sheep-drink two or three times, and they did not complain all the Summer after. Any Person that pleases shall be welcome to view my Proceedings in Farming, after the several Methods that are publish'd in

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my Books, and be satisfy'd of the same by ocular Demonstration and the Declaration of the Neighbourhood, particularly of the great Efficacy of the *French* Wheat that this Summer I ploughed in, in three several Fields, and other ways of cheap Manuring, for where these and other Dressings may be had cheap, it would be very absurd Management of any to let the Ground want Assistance, according to those plain Directions that I have published in This and my *Chiltern* and *Vale Farmer*, which if duly regarded, by the Blessing of God, no Person need fear a good Crop on the Ground, and that oftner than by the common Way of making a Fallow every third Summer: But then there must be a careful Observation of the Times and Seasons of the Year, which I have found of so great Importance, that for these seven Years past I have been making Collections and Experiments, and wrote the Success and Loss of several Farmers Proceedings in our Country as well as my own, which I intend shortly to publish by way of monthly Books, that consequently must be of great Service to the World, for let a Person be ever so good a Husbandman in the Operative Part, yet if he does not know how to Time his Matters, he may likely lose his Money and Labour too; for Example. Chalk or sandy Ground requires different times of Sowing than what Clay or Loams do; so likewise wet Grounds wants not only different Dressings than
the

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the dry Soils, but also times accordingly to lay them on ; In Ploughings the same, Planting the same, and in Seeds the same : For if a tender Maple-Pea was sown in *January*, its Odds if the Crop is not lost, when the hardy horn Grey-Peas might be spoiled by Sowing in *April*, and so in many other things used by the Farmer, which I hope I shall adjust to the Satisfaction of the World, and that so much the sooner, as Persons will be Subscribers to twelve Books at one Shilling each for every Month in the Year ; and whoever advances five-Shillings, shall have six Books delivered to them. Subscriptions are taken in only at Mr. *Weaver Bickerton's* at *Lord Bacon's Head*, without *Temple-Bar* ; and at Mr. *Parker's*, Bookseller, near the *Cocoa-Tree* in *Pallmall*.



A

COMPARISON

O F

Different Methods of FARMING

I N

SEVERAL COUNTRIES.

THE County of *Hertford* is allowed by the exactest Observators to be a most healthful Situation, abounding with red Clays, Loams, Chalks, Gravels, and Sands, that lye in many Hills and a few Valleys, which are most of them naturally poor Soils of themselves, but of late greatly improv'd by the Industry of its Farmers, who living within a Days Journey of *London*, many of them have been encourag'd to imploy their Teams at vacant times to carry Meal, Bran, Chaff, Corn, Wood, and other Vendables thither, in order to load back again with Sut, Ashes, Hoofs, Horn-shavings, Rags, &c. for dressing their Land, that by the help of these and good Ploughings, many have

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have the benefit of Grain, Grafs, Turnips, &c. Yearly, without the Loss of one Summer for the fallow Season; which of late has become so profitable, That our Chiltern Farms lets for more than the Vale Grounds that are in themselves more Richer than the Hilly-Lands, being a black Mould mix'd with a blewish Clay, that will, with half the Dressing of ours, return the most plentiful Crops of Wheat, Barly, and Beans: But then there is this difference, we in the Hill Country have sometimes three Crops in less than a Year and a half; as Clover, Turnips, Wheat, or Barly; or else Peas, Turnips, and Wheat, or Barly, &c. by means of our convenient Inclosures; whilst they in their Valey open Fields are confin'd to lose a Year and a half before they must set on a Barly Crop after their Beans. For which reason it is, That we commonly Reckon, a Wheat or Barly Crop ought to pay two Years Rent. However, with these Inconveniencies, they have several balancing Advantages, as having their Land cheaper than in the Chiltern; for though the Vale of *Aylsbury* begins but four Miles distant from *Gad-desden*, yet have they their very best Marly-ground for nine Shillings *per* Acre, while we pay twenty for a much poorer Sort. There also the very Smiths Bill will amount only to six Pounds a Year, when three times as much with us will hardly defray the Charge of the same number of Horses, Waggon, Carts, Ploughs, and

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and Harrows. Their Servants are also hired cheaper, and generally fare harder ; but then they are at a Loss for Clover and other artificial Grasses, Turnips, &c. which few of them can enjoy, because of the richness of their Soil, that will not bear the Cattles Stolching and Treading in them to feed in Winter nor in wet Summers, besides the disagreeable Nature of their low Earth to that of the Turnip, that instead of Appling or Bottling, it runs into rank Leaf. This obliges them to feed their Sheep on their Commons and Stubbles altogether, with which they very plentifully abound ; insomuch, that few or none of them ever buy any *London* Dressings, though some of them are but one and thirty Miles off it. One indeed I did know of them purchase a Waggon-load of Soot, for his Farm that he rented at one hundred and sixty five Pounds a Year ; and it answered very well, as he himself own'd, but I never could hear he went a second time to the same Market : On the Contrary, he has been several times to fetch Pigeons Dung at ten Pence *per* single Bushel for to sow on his Barly-ground, out of *Bedfordshire*, though he lived Sixteen Miles distant in *Buckinghamshire*. Another great Benefit they have in the Vales are the number of Cows which they keep in abundance, by reason of their great Quantitys of Cow-pastures, as they call them ; that is, where a Cow-Common is, each Farm has a right to feed a certain Number of

of them, and are so valuable as to be worth — a Year each a Head, about *Chedington* and *Edgborough* in *Bucks*, in case they Lett them out, as many do, for which they seldom want Chaps, by reason of the great Sweetness of their Grass-turfs, and the extraordinary Heart there is in their Herbage ; for it's certain the very Hay off their Marly-Soil, will fat a Horse or Ox alone, when ours in the Chiltern will but do the same with Hay and Oats too. Another Convenience they have in the Vale is, That they are not under the necessity of much Brain-work to Study the Improvement of their Land in their open Fields, because every Farmer acts commonly as his next Neighbour does, and that Year after Year in one and the same Sort of Management. For if they would do otherwise, they are hindered by the Want of Inclosure : So that in the open Vale Ground, the Science of Farming is as easy and plain, as it is hard and difficult in the Chiltern ; where an acute Farmer is obliged to form a Plan of his future Proceedings three Years at least beforehand, that each Crop may succeed one another in such Order as to impoverish the Ground as little as possible ; not but both Vales and Chilterns vary much in many Places, in the several Ways of Husbandry.

In the Vale of *Aylsbury*, one Part of it Fallows their Ground every third Year, another
H every

every fourth Year: Some drills their Horse-Beans in; others sows them Broad-cast, and Plows them in. Some Plows up their Sward or Grass-ground, and sows Wheat, which they sell at an extraordinary Price, as coming off fresh Earth or Virgin Mould, and after fifteen or twenty Years tillage; they lay it down again for Grass-ground; and so continue this Practice in several parts of their Farms alternately, especially in *Buckinghamshire* and about *Buckingham*, and which is of so great service to us *Chiltern* Farmers, that it tempts some of us often to go down with our Wag-gons to *Aylsbury*, to buy this fine Seed, as well for the sake of the Change of Ground, as for its being clean of Seeds, Weeds, and other Trumpery. And of this Sort I sow myself, and had very good success this last Harvest 1734. Yet in some other Parts of the Vale they have no Notion of this Improvement, tho' they have the same opportunity.

In *Berkshire*, in some Places, they cut up their Turf or Peat and burn it to Ashes to dress their Ground with. Here they drill and hough their Hog-peas. Some again follow the ingenious Mr. *Tull's* Way of drilling in Wheat and other Grain and Grass-Seeds, in order to sow the Interspaces the next Year that lay vacant the preceding; which I think to be a good Way, if the Charge of Houghing could be avoided, but that is such
an

an expensive Article, as will not suit with the Farmer's Mind nor Pocket. The Method also of drilling-in Horse-beans at six Foot distance has been practised, and the houghing-part supply'd by the Plough, but the Attempt proved unsuccessful, because as they manag'd it, the Weeds came up and choak'd the Beans; not but that I believe it might answer, if a proper Method was made use of, which in this place is too long to discuss. See more on this Subject in my *Chiltern* and *Vale Farmer*.

In *Cornwall*, *Devonshire*, and several other Maritime Countrys they Dress with Sea-sand, Oarweed, Sea-mud or Vaes, Shells, and sometimes Fish, as I knew it once done in *Cornwall*; where there were such numbers of Pilchards affrighted to the Shoar near *Mount Edgcomb* by the Porpoises, that several laid them on their Lands, and afforded a great Improvement by the oily sulfureous Parts of the Fish. So in *Cambridgshire*, *Bedfordshire*, &c. several make use of Rape-cakes, Ground at the Oil-Mills near *Cambridge*, into Powder, which does great service to Land. — Likewise in *Berkshire* and the *Chiltern* Part of *Buckinghamshire*, several sow them for their Cattle. — In *Essex*, and several other Countrys, they send ten or twelve Miles or more for Lime to manure their Ground with, as they do in *Hertfordshire* with Chalk, Rags, Horn-shavings, Sheeps-trot-

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ters, Hoofs, Hair, Ashes, and Soot. In *Surry*, *Suffolk*, and many more Places, the Marle pits excels as well as others that dresses their Clays with Sand, and Sand with Clays. The Marles in *Warwickshire* and *Northamptonshire* are of two Colours, red and blue; the red is as hard as an Earth-Floor, which obliges them to dig it out of Pits with Mattocks and Crows of Iron, from thence they lay it in heaps in their Fields, and in three or four Nights time, its small Pieces and Bits will Shoal by the Help of the Dews and Rains in *August* and *September*. The blue Sort being softer, is much easier manag'd. — In *Surry* and *Berkshire* their *French* Wheat is a great Improvement, by being plough'd-in to dress their Ground. About *Harrow* in *Middlesex*, several does the same by their Clover, which is reckon'd but half dressing in comparison of *French* Wheat.

In the Vales, their way of cleaning Wheat and other Grains is very different from ours in the Chiltern: The Former follow their ancient way of wind-fanning it, the Latter by throwing it with as much expedition as they, and fewer Hands. — Their Hedging in the Low Countrys vary much from that of the High Lands. In *Bucks*, *Bedford*, and many more Places, they cut half the Side of the Hedge for Fewel, and leave the other half for a Fence: But in *Hertfordshire*, *Kent*, and some others, they plash all that is to be left, and
make

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make a Sort of a Wall-hedge about four foot high from the Ground, far exceeding all other ways. — In the Vales their Wheat and Beans are larger body'd than ours in the Chiltern, by reason of their excellent, strong, black, Soils; but their Oats and Barly are not so good, because their Ground is so rank as runs them mostly into Straw, and less into Corn, that often lays them flat to the Ground by the Greatness of their Bulk, and then it's generally lean Corn, as it happened this last Summer 1734. — In *Kent*, their Ploughs that have two broad Boards, is excellently well adapted to the Culture of their Hilly-grounds, because it turns a Thorough or Furrow all one way, and thereby leaves no bendings, as the Wheel *Hertfordshire* Plough does; which renders it very useful in turning the Ground from the lower Part towards the upper Part, and for this reason it is, that they call ours a Bastard Plough. But our New-invented double Plough, answers extraordinary well, especially in Barly and Turnip-ground, and in sterile Seasons; for then there may almost double Work be done with four Horses in half the time that a single Plough is employed; and thus to save Time and Labour, in those Seasons where the Farmer's great Benefit lies in Expedition, must certainly be of great Value. As I have more largely set forth in my *Chiltern* and *Vale Farmer* sold by Mr. *Bickerton*. — In the Vales, this present Fall of the Leaf 1734. they are in many Places
under

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under the direful Misfortune of having Rotten Sheep, by their watry Situation and loose sticky Earth, that easily washes about the Grass, and communicates a poisonous Quality into the Blood, which sweeps away many thousands in a Year; and notwithstanding what I have said in this, and my aforesaid Book, I have reason to suspect, that the common obstinate Farmer will not adhere to my Excellent Receipts that has by some been tried, and found to do Wonders in this respect, by saving many that have but been just touch'd with the Rott. And they may believe me if they please, that a Member of Parliament who lives in the *West* assured me, he tried one of my Receipts, and found it answer, by preventing his Sheep that were in great danger of being destroyed by the Rott, and not only in the Rott, but also to prevent and cure the Red-Water, that kills many in the Year in the Hilly-countrys as well as the Vale.

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